

Procedures and Methods Sheet: 025

Protective Gloves – Selecting the Right Type for your Chemical

These instructions are designed to prevent accidents, of which there have been several, due to incorrect glove selection leading to the selected glove allowing a hazardous substance to penetrate to the skin causing chemical burns and/or possibly other health effects.

A wide variety of chemically-resistant polymer based gloves are available for use in the chemical environment.

When selecting gloves to be used for handling a particular substance the user should incorporate the following considerations into the Chemical Risk Assessment process:

- The nature of the substance (hazard to the skin).
- The quantity of substance being handled and used.
- Likely exposure routes in the experimental process.
- Glove compatibility for the substances being handled.
- Any other protective measures (glove box).
- Suitable dexterity for safe handling – (e.g. double glove or increased thickness?).

Immediately remove gloves after any contact with chemical substance unless the Risk Assessment shows that the gloves provide an adequate length of time to prevent breakthrough.

Information regarding the hazardous nature of contact with a chemical substance and appropriate gloves (and other PPE) can be found on the relevant substance's Safety Data Sheet in Sections 8.1 "Control Parameters" and 8.2 "Exposure Controls".

Advice regarding suitability of gloves can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg330.pdf>

Data regarding chemical compatibility of gloves may also be obtained from manufacturers' websites such as:

<https://www.labtek.com.au/SuppliersData/Ansell/Chemical%20Handling%20Glove%20Guide.pdf>

There is also information available on the University Safety Services website at:

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=12842>

Advice can also be obtained from the School Safety advisor.